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Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Office in Angola (UNOA)

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution 1294 (2000) of 13 April 2000, in which the Council requested me to submit to it periodic reports on developments in Angola, including recommendations about additional measures the Council might consider to promote the peace process in the country. The present report provides an update of the situation since my report of 11 April 2001 (S/2001/351).

II. Political developments

2. Deep animosity and distrust, fuelled by hate propaganda, have persisted between the Government and the União Nacional para a Independência Total de Angola (UNITA) led by Mr. Jonas Savimbi. Despite the increasing pressure from the civil society for a political settlement of the conflict, fighting has continued unabated with dire humanitarian consequences.

3. The guerrilla activities of UNITA have spread to several parts of the country, particularly in recent months. On 4 May 2001, UNITA forces attacked the locality of Caxito in Bengo province (60 kilometres north-east of Luanda), killing approximately 150 persons and wounding several others, as well as kidnapping 60 children from a school run by a non-governmental organization, who were later released on 25 May. In addition to several other incidents of ambushes and attacks, UNITA claimed responsibility for shooting at a World Food Programme (WFP) plane near Kuito, Bié province, in June, and the attack on a passenger train in Kwanza Norte province in August 2001, the latter incident having led to the death of over 250 persons with many more injured. The Secretary-General condemned the deliberate attack on the train and underlined the urgent need for a political settlement of the conflict (SG/SM/7916). In both the plane and train attacks, UNITA alleged that government forces and war materiel were being transported, charges vigorously denied by the Government. It also used the two incidents to indicate that the movement was ready to reciprocate any gesture or initiative from the Government towards a ceasefire, and to reiterate its willingness to dialogue.

4. Following the Caxito attack, the Inter-Denominational Committee for Peace in Angola (COIEPA) issued a press release on 29 May appealing for an immediate and unconditional ceasefire. It also reiterated the validity of the Lusaka Protocol (S/1994/1441, annex) as the basis for any future discussions, and reminded the parties of the need for all sensitive issues to be brought to the negotiating table.

5. In a speech in Luanda during the opening of an international conference on 2 May, President José Eduardo dos Santos, among other things, explained that his Government had opted for a military solution to the Angolan conflict as a matter of legitimate self-defence. The President also seized the occasion to reiterate the four-point peace proposal of the Government, referred to in my last report (S/2001/351, para. 6). He then asked Mr. Savimbi to indicate when he intended to end the war and how to conclude the Lusaka Protocol. On 28 August, President dos Santos once again invited Mr. Savimbi to declare a ceasefire, lay down his weapons and join the democratic process.

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6. On 13 May, Mr. Savimbi addressed a letter to the church requesting it to continue its search for peace and national reconciliation in Angola. He stated that UNITA was prepared for an all-inclusive national debate on how to end the war. A month later, in an interview given to the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), Mr. Savimbi pointed out that his movement could neither declare a unilateral ceasefire nor disarm because there were no verification mechanisms in place. The leadership of UNITA also issued a document entitled "Proposals for the solution of the Angolan conflict" in which it, inter alia, proposed the establishment of a transitional government, and the creation of a High Council of Peace composed of the historic leaders of the ruling Movimento Popular para a Libertação de Angola (MPLA), UNITA, Frente Nacional para a Libertação de Angola (FNLA) and other political as well as civil society leaders. The document also called for the mutual acceptance of guilt, revocation of all laws against UNITA and the lifting of sanctions by the Security Council. In September, the Secretary for External Relations of UNITA also addressed a letter to the Secretary-General in which it reiterated UNITA's interpretation of the Lusaka Protocol.

7. In its response to the different initiatives proposed by UNITA, the Episcopal Conference of Angola and São Tomé (CEAST) reiterated its appeal for a bilateral, simultaneous and urgent ceasefire. It also transmitted to Mr. Savimbi a letter signed by the Bishops of Southern Africa in which they made proposals on how to resolve the Angolan conflict, including a bilateral and simultaneous ceasefire and amnesty. In early September, the Vice-President of UNITA, General António Sebastião Dembo, replied positively to the proposals put forward by CEAST and COIEPA. A peace network was also formed in early September comprising several prominent church and civil society dignitaries.

8. Some members of MPLA have rejected the church proposals, arguing that they represented an attempt to put the Government and UNITA on an equal footing. However, UNITA issued a press release acknowledging receipt of the correspondence from the church and promising to take concrete steps to respond to the appeal of the Bishops for peace. For its part, on 27 April, the Angolan National Assembly decided to create a 24-member ad hoc Commission for Peace and National Reconciliation. It also approved proposals for the establishment of mechanisms that would facilitate contacts with the warring parties and other relevant actors. The Commission, which is chaired by a member of the ruling party, was given six months to submit its report.

9. In August, UNITA released a document entitled "Proposals for the solution of the Angolan conflict" in which it proposed, inter alia, the establishment of a transitional government and the creation of a high council of peace composed of the leaders of the two parties, as well as other prominent political and civil society dignitaries. As the Lusaka Protocol remains the basis of the peace process, it is unlikely that the UNITA proposal will be considered a viable option.

10. The timing of the next general elections continued to generate controversy. In early August, the Council of the Republic met under the chairmanship of President dos Santos and decided to maintain the original schedule of the second half of 2002 for the elections. However, most opposition parties have argued that the prevailing political and military situation was not conducive to such an exercise. Meanwhile, on 23 August, in a speech to the Central Committee of the ruling MPLA, President dos Santos announced his intention not to stand as a candidate in the next general elections. The President also indicated that before the elections were to take place, there was a need to revise the electoral law, adopt a new constitution, carry out a population census, resettle most of the displaced population, and have security guarantees to enable the free circulation of people.

11. The Government of Côte d'Ivoire has continued to make efforts to improve its relations with Angola. In May 2001, President Laurent Gbagbo made an official visit to Angola during which he addressed a special session of the National Assembly. In his speech, President Gbagbo, among other things, promised to strictly respect the sanctions against UNITA by ensuring that it never again used the territory of Côte d'Ivoire as a base from which to destabilize the Government of Angola. He also pledged to withdraw before the end of June 2001 all Ivoirian passports issued to officials of UNITA.

12. Relations between Angola and Zambia have also continued to improve. During the past six months, there have been a number of mutual visits by the Foreign Affairs and Defence Ministers of both countries. In addition, on 26 June, President dos Santos

attended in Lusaka a tripartite meeting with his Namibian and Zambian counterparts devoted to security cooperation. In a speech at the mini-summit, President dos Santos expressed satisfaction with the situation along the Angolan-Zambian border and acknowledged the contributions of Namibia and Zambia towards peace in Angola. As a result of these improvements, the military of the two countries have agreed to begin joint patrols of their common borders.

13. The Security Council discussed the question of Angola on 20 September and issued a statement by the President of the Council (S/PRST/2001/24) in which it condemned in the strongest terms the terrorist attacks by UNITA forces on the civilian population. The statement also mentioned the Council's determination to keep sanctions against UNITA in place until it was convinced that the conditions in its relevant resolutions had been met. The Council considered the four-point agenda for peace proposed by the Government of Angola a useful indication of areas where an agreement or progress should be reached. It also encouraged the Government to promote the peace process and welcomed the initiatives by the Government, as well as by the Angolan people, including civil society and the churches.

14. On 21 September, I met with Mr. Fernando da Piedade Dias dos Santos "Nandó", Minister of the Interior, who noted that the relations between the Government and the United Nations had improved, and emphasized that the international community had a role to play, specifically in assisting the management of the Fund for Peace and National Reconciliation, and the pilot project for the resettlement of the population affected by the conflict, and in preparation towards the general elections. I reiterated my view that the conflict could not be solved by military means alone and that creative ways would have to be found to put an end to the war within the framework of the Lusaka Protocol.

15. During the period under review, members of the Monitoring Mechanism on Sanctions against UNITA established under Security Council resolution 1295 (2000) paid several visits to Angola. They held discussions with the Government and former military officials of UNITA as well as with representatives of the diplomatic community. The Mechanism is expected to submit a supplementary report to the Council in mid-October.

16. My Adviser for Special Assignments in Africa, Under-Secretary-General Ibrahim Gambari, visited Angola in early May 2001 to consult with the Government of that country and other relevant parties on how best the United Nations could help accelerate the peace process. During his stay, Mr. Gambari held consultations with several political and church leaders, as well as with some non-governmental organizations and members of the diplomatic community. He was received in audience by President dos Santos to whom he handed a message from me. In his reply on 15 May, the President acknowledged the positive impact of sanctions against UNITA and sought the assistance of the United Nations in the forthcoming electoral process, and a pilot project for the resettlement of the war-affected and demobilized combatants, as well as the Fund for Peace and National Reconciliation for which his Government has allocated US$ 20 million. Regarding the peace process, President dos Santos promised to inform me in due course of the outcome of the ongoing internal debate in the country on this crucial matter. Following the letter of the President and my reply dated 6 June, in which I promised the assistance of the Organization in the three areas, a United Nations-led multidisciplinary team was sent to Angola in late September to discuss the details of the request with the authorities. The mission has since returned to Headquarters and its recommendations will be carefully considered by the Secretariat for necessary follow-up action.

III. Human rights aspects

17. The human rights situation continued to be undermined by the ongoing conflict. Humanitarian principles were largely ignored, with civilians subjected to a wide range of human rights abuses. Ambushes on main roads and landmines endangered the lives of civilians and limited freedom of movement. There were also reports of lootings, rapes, kidnappings and the abduction of under-age children for use as porters. Recently, UNITA has begun to target civilians with greater intensity. The attack on a civilian train in Kwanza Norte province for which UNITA claimed responsibility is an indication of a serious deterioration in the human rights situation.

18. Through its partnerships with government authorities and civil society at the local and national levels, the human rights programme of the United

Nations Office in Angola (UNOA) is helping to establish sustainable mechanisms that enable Angolan citizens to know and exercise their rights while supporting those government institutions that are responsible for their protection. The programme is committed to increasing its activities in order to improve law enforcement and human rights protection. This has been a major challenge owing to the weakness of the national justice system, which is practically non-existent in the countryside, particularly in the areas severely affected by guerrilla warfare.

19. Recognizing the fragility of the institutions of the judicial system, the Government has requested that UNOA expand its human rights activities to the provinces with a view to ensuring the protection of its citizens who are subject to regular violations of their basic rights. In response, and in partnership with the Government and civil society, UNOA has carried out a large number of activities and projects, funded through voluntary contributions and aimed especially at developing and broadening access to justice. They include the support of a case-tracking system project in partnership with the Office of the Prosecutor General, the penitentiary and the National Departments of Criminal Investigation and Economic Police. This project seeks to increase the effectiveness of legal control over pre-trial detentions and imprisonment. The project is at this stage limited to Luanda with the exception of the Prosecutor General's Office case-tracking system which was extended to Huíla and Benguela provinces.

20. Another area of support was aimed at the Angolan Bar Association through the conducting of a study to evaluate the functioning of the justice system. The results, which were discussed in a panel composed of representatives of relevant government ministries and institutions, the National Assembly and civil society, showed a serious lack of qualified personnel and material resources. The lack of municipal courts and of legal assistance for Angolan citizens had been addressed to some extent in Luanda through UNOA's efforts with the Government and through various legal aid programmes such as that of the non-governmental lawyers in Mãos Livres and the Emergency Legal Aid project. Mãos Livres has already been extended to Benguela and Huíla; but the remaining 16 provinces urgently need attention at this stage. UNOA stands ready to support and strengthen these programmes, especially in the provinces that are in particular need of assistance.

21. UNOA also continues to support nationwide projects with the Angolan Armed Forces (FAA), the Angolan National Police, the Prosecutor General's Office and the Ministry of Justice with a view to improving the capacity of these institutions in the protection of human rights. It has also been assisting the ninth commission of the National Assembly, which is mandated to mediate on violations of human rights perpetrated by State institutions and administration. The Commission lacks personnel and material resources to effectively deal with an average of 60 claims per day. The project aims at establishing a database in order to better compile and manage incoming petitions. As a natural progression of the programmes successfully conducted at the central level, UNOA will gradually expand its support activities to the provinces as conditions warrant.

22. The question of freedom of expression continues to be troubling despite the existence of some independent media in Luanda and Benguela. In the light of the importance of the next elections, it is imperative that awareness on freedom of expression be promoted not only in Luanda where court cases have been argued by lawyers from non-governmental organizations but especially in the provinces. UNOA maintained and developed its awareness activities in partnership with the Human Rights Department of the Ministry of Justice and Radio Ecclesia both in Luanda and in the provinces. Again, in conjunction with the National Radio Station, UNOA has broadcast 24 human rights plays in four national languages.

23. Given the urgent need to respond to the overall protection of internally displaced persons, the Human Rights Division of UNOA has developed a close collaboration with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and has increased its efforts to ensure full implementation of the United Nations protection strategy (April 2001), within the overall framework given by the Government's approval of the minimum standards for the resettlement of displaced populations. The Division has been requested to play a major role in defining a common set of objectives for capacity-building and community mobilization.

24. Three key areas have been identified for the future work of UNOA's human rights programme: access to justice, right of citizen participation and confidence-building. An effort will also be made to assume the full integration of the human rights activities within the overall mandate of UNOA, and to ensure close cooperation with United Nations agencies in Angola.

IV. Humanitarian situation

25. Despite tangible progress made during the past six months in stabilizing populations in accessible areas, the humanitarian situation remains serious, particularly in inaccessible regions, where credible evidence indicates that conditions have deteriorated markedly. At the end of August, the number of persons reportedly displaced since the resumption of hostilities in December 1998 reached over 3 million and approximately 1.3 million of them have been confirmed by humanitarian organizations. Provinces with the largest concentrations of internally displaced persons include Bié, Huíla, Huambo and Malanje. Since March, more than 165,000 persons have been displaced by war-related activity and food insecurity. The April floods in southern Angola and attacks during May led to the temporary displacement of between 90,000 to 110,000 people during a three-month period. In addition, growing insecurity in the northern part of Uige province during July and August forced at least 10,000 Angolan refugees to seek safety in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

26. The intensification of warfare produced very serious conditions in Bié province. In Camacupa, global malnutrition rates exceeded 41 per cent in four sites in April and reached as high as 46.6 per cent at the Descasque de Arroz transit centre. By the end of April, agencies were estimating that at least 40 per cent of all affected children in Camacupa were at mortal risk. Mortality levels at therapeutic feeding centres in nearby Kuito reached 24 per cent during early June, before receding at the end of the month. Despite intermittent insecurity, a new corridor into Camacupa was opened in April and a major humanitarian operation launched, involving large-scale distributions of food and survival items and emergency interventions in nutrition, health, and water and sanitation. By mid-July, as a result of humanitarian assistance, global malnutrition rates had dropped significantly in both Camacupa and Kuito. Although conditions in the two locations remained relatively stable from July onwards, displaced persons from inaccessible areas of Bié province continued to arrive in both locations through September. In Camacupa, the number of newly displaced persons increased from 8,000 in June to more than 23,000 by mid-September.

27. In May, humanitarian agencies identified 14 inaccessible areas where critical conditions were suspected. During the next several months, populations coming from interior locations within Bié and other provinces reported extreme levels of malnutrition in the inaccessible areas of Cuemba, Ringoma, Umpulo and Munhango in Bié province and Mussende in Kwanza Sul province. By August, the number of locations had increased to 20, indicating a marked and general deterioration in inaccessible areas. The number of at-risk persons residing in these locations was estimated at more than 200,000. Although government authorities promised to deliver direct front-line assistance to all hard-hit inaccessible areas, in particular Cuemba and Mussende, so far only minimal amounts have reportedly reached the most critically affected populations.

28. During July, representatives of the Government and humanitarian organizations conducted the annual Rapid Assessment of Critical Needs in 29 accessible areas in 12 provinces. The most critical conditions were found among internally displaced persons in transit centres, newly displaced persons and residents without livelihoods. Although some populations with access to agricultural land benefited from the harvest in April and May, the Rapid Assessment found that the overwhelming majority of displaced persons did not have access to adequate land and were unable to cultivate sufficient quantities of food stocks to cover basic food requirements. Malnutrition rates were highest in areas with large influxes of newly displaced populations including Cuima and Chipipa (Huambo province), Ganda and Cubal (Benguela province) and Luena (Moxico province). Malnutrition rates were also high among resident populations whose coping strategies had come under extreme pressure. Although needs were found in all of the 29 locations, acute needs were concentrated in four provinces (Bié province, Moxico province, northern Huíla province and central Benguela Province). The Rapid Assessment indicated that, if humanitarian assistance is withdrawn or

reduced, acute conditions could quickly develop in two additional provinces, Huambo and Malanje.

29. During the period under review, morbidity and mortality rates continued to be high in many areas, especially among recently displaced populations in crowded camps and transit centres. Malaria, anaemia, acute respiratory infections and diarrhoeic diseases remained the most prevalent illnesses and causes of death. The precarious health situation was exacerbated by limited supplies of essential medicines and understaffed health facilities. These conditions lead to outbreaks of preventable diseases, including measles in Uíge province and meningitis in Benguela province.

30. The overall humanitarian situation was exacerbated by heavy rains and flooding during March and April. Tens of thousands of people in coastal zones and other areas lost their homes and agricultural fields, particularly in the central province of Bengula, and the southern provinces of Cunene, Huíla and Namibe. Access to affected areas was severely restricted owing to flooded surface routes, collapsed bridges and damaged railroad connections. Under the joint leadership of the Technical Unit for the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance (UTCAH) and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, technical assessments were rapidly conducted in 15 flood-affected areas. During the next three months, humanitarian partners implemented a consolidated plan of action aimed at stabilizing conditions and re-establishing livelihoods. In addition, the Government released resources to repair damaged infrastructure.

31. Three rounds of National Immunization Days (NIDs) against poliomyelitis were conducted during the reporting period (July, August and September). The July NID was the first synchronized campaign to be held in conjunction with neighbouring countries, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Zambia. Despite significant improvements in vaccination coverage, more than 20 municipalities were not reached and large parts of 48 others were not properly covered during the July campaign. During the August campaign, 19 municipalities were not reached.

Access and security

32. Contrary to expectations, access to at-risk populations, particularly in new areas, did not increase during the reporting period. Security perimeters around provincial cities and towns remained restricted and in six areas (Moxico, Bié, Malanje, Uíge, Bengo and Kuando Kubango) perimeters contracted under intense pressure. Road links between capitals remained insecure in the central and eastern parts of the country and only one new surface corridor to Camacupa was established.

33. Airstrips in Luena, Kuito Kuanavale, Uíge and Kuito remained in poor condition. Despite the Government's commitment to immediately repairing the Kuito airstrip, progress was slow. WFP was able to deliver only 60 per cent of requirements to Kuito. In May, lack of fuel for air operations out of the Catumbela hub (Benguela province) hampered the delivery of assistance to areas throughout the country. In Malanje, de-mining and resettlement activities also had to be reduced owing to fuel shortages.

34. Security conditions remained volatile. More than 300 armed attacks occurred on commercial convoys, resettlement sites, and population centres. A 5 May attack against Caxito, the capital of Bengo province, located 60 kilometres from Luanda, caused the temporary displacement of between 50,000 and 70,000 people in the direction of Luanda. During the attack, an undetermined number of civilians were killed, including four non-governmental humanitarian workers. Forty-nine humanitarian personnel were immediately relocated to Luanda. At least 60 children, 1 teacher and an unconfirmed number of adult civilians were abducted. On 25 May, 60 children and 2 adults were released in Kwanza Norte province. An additional 35 children remained unaccounted for following the attack.

35. On 21 May, Golungo Alto (Kwanza Norte province) was attacked, resulting in the displacement of more than 4,000 persons towards the provincial capital, N'Dalatando. Several national humanitarian workers were captured, but later released. During June, insecurity and fighting occurred within and in close proximity to six provincial capitals, including Uíge, Kuito, Saurimo, N'Dalatando, Huambo and Malanje. On 28 June, Uíge was attacked. Forty-three United Nations and non-governmental humanitarian personnel were relocated to Luanda for approximately two weeks. In mid-September, attacks against Muxaluando (Bengo province) caused at least 12,000 people to seek safety in Caxito.

36. In June, attacks occurred against two clearly marked WFP cargo aircraft over Luena (Moxico province) and Kuito (Bié province). WFP flights were suspended for seven days following the attacks. The cancellation of flights hampered the humanitarian relief effort in Angola, creating a backlog for both passenger and cargo flights. Mine contamination also restricted humanitarian operations and continued to cause serious human suffering. During the period under review, more than 200 people were killed or injured as a result of mine incidents in 15 provinces.

Protection

37. Protection problems remained a serious concern, particularly in militarily contested areas where counter-insurgency and guerrilla warfare aimed directly at civilian populations have resulted in widespread abuses. During the period, violations included forced displacement, abductions, looting of property, harassment, physical assault and under-age recruitment. Between 70 and 90 per cent of the people of Angola lack official documentation or proof of identity.

38. As part of ongoing efforts to develop pragmatic protection mechanisms, seven protection workshops were held at the provincial level. A Luanda-based team with representatives from the Attorney-General's office, FAA, the Angolan National Police, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, UNHCR and the Ministry of Social Affairs and Reintegration (MINARS) led the workshops. The purpose was to sensitize key actors on humanitarian principles and develop a concrete provincial protection plan. Each workshop included 30 to 40 representatives of government ministries, FAA, Angolan National Police, the Attorney-General's office, national and international non-governmental organizations, religious and community organizations and United Nations agencies. By the end of August, 10 provincial protection plans had been developed and 6 formally approved in Malanje, Benguela, Bié, Zaire, Kuando Kubango and Kwanza Norte provinces. In three provinces, Benguela, Bié and Kuando Kubango, protection sub-groups have been formed and are now functioning.

Resettlement and return

39. Contrary to expectations, large-scale resettlement was not possible during the period owing to deteriorating security conditions. Although partners had planned to relocate 500,000 internally displaced persons during the year, only 67,000 people were resettled between March and September in approximately 15 sites. In a worrying trend, resettlement sites came under increasing attack. Between April and mid-August, 33 separate attacks occurred, including several in areas previously considered safe (Dombe Grande, Cubal, Cacula, Golungo Alto, Caxito and Uíge city).

40. Approximately 50 per cent of all resettlement initiatives during the period were carried out in compliance with the preconditions described in the Norms for the Resettlement of Displaced Populations. The Rapid Assessment of Critical Needs indicated ongoing problems with compliance in Kwanza Norte, Huila, Malanje, Moxico, Namibe, Kuando Kubango, Lunda Sul, Cunene, Benguela and Huambo provinces. In August, the *regulamento* (operating procedures) for implementing the Norms was finalized, following six months of intensive consultations. The aim of the *regulamento* is to establish legally binding procedures that guarantee the standardized application of the Norms countrywide and identify benchmarks for the monitoring of the resettlement process. Following dissemination of the *regulamento*, compliance with the Norms is expected to improve significantly in the months ahead.

41. As part of a major ongoing effort to improve living conditions for the most affected internally displaced persons, more than 30 transit centres have been closed since April 2000 and the persons involved (approximately 20,000 people) resettled in temporary sites. During the period under review, four transit centres were closed (two in Ganda in Benguela province and two in Luena in Moxico province) and 1,500 people were resettled. In addition, one transit centre was upgraded into a reception facility in Balombo (Benguela province). By mid-September, 13 transit centres were still open, although efforts were under way to close more by the end of the year.

42. Agencies estimate that approximately 60,000 internally displaced persons returned to their areas of origin during the reporting period in the provinces of Bié, Huambo, Huila, Malanje and Moxico. In addition,

spontaneous return movements, of unknown size, reportedly occurred in several inaccessible areas. In Bengo, Malanje and Uige provinces, thousands of returned populations were again displaced owing to upsurges in insecurity.

Food security

43. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)/WFP Crop and Food Supply Assessment conducted in May confirmed that seeds and tools had been distributed in larger quantities during 2000-2001 than the previous year. In addition, most people had improved access to agricultural areas. According to data provided by the food security office of the Ministry of Agriculture, residents and internally displaced persons had cultivated approximately 2,120,000 hectares of land during the last agricultural season. The most significant increases in cultivated areas were recorded in Huambo, Huila, Uige and Kwanza Sul provinces. As a result, overall production was higher than the previous year, despite dry spells in the northern region and floods in the southern provinces.

44. Between March and September 2001, WFP planned to distribute an average of 13,186 metric tons per month to 896,309 beneficiaries in 17 provinces. Insecurity, fuel shortages, airport closures and repairs, and scarcity of some commodities contributed to a shortfall in the actual distributions during the period. In April, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) reduced its caseload in Huambo from 328,000 to 28,000 beneficiaries. In March, WFP introduced a new system of registration aimed at the better targeting of beneficiaries. By June, approximately 40,000 newly displaced families had been registered under the new system.

Coordination of humanitarian assistance

45. Positive advances in coordination continued during the reporting period. In mid-March, the senior inter-agency network on internal displacement, led by the United Nations Special Coordinator on Internal Displacement, together with representatives of FAO, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, the Office of the Representative of the Secretary-General on Internally Displaced Persons, and the non-governmental organizations community, undertook a mission to Angola. The mission assessed the nature and magnitude of the assistance and protection needs of internally displaced persons and reviewed the operational capacity of humanitarian actors. The team also reviewed progress made in implementing the recommendations made by the Representative of the Secretary-General on Internally Displaced Persons, following his visit to Angola in November 2000. The mission, which had met with government representatives and a broad cross section of humanitarian partners and visited internally displaced persons locations in Bié, Huambo and Luanda provinces, expressed concern over allegations of human rights abuses and violations of international humanitarian law, including forced relocation, targeting of civilians, forced conscription, looting of humanitarian supplies and sexual violence.

46. The Executive Director of UNICEF, Ms. Carol Bellamy, visited Angola in August. The purpose of the mission was to support the polio eradication campaign and help launch a new birth registration campaign. In addition, the Executive Director undertook an assessment of the situation of children in Angola and, at the request of the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, reviewed general humanitarian conditions. Following meetings with government officials and humanitarian partners and field visits to Bié, Cabinda and Malanje provinces, the Executive Director expressed serious concern about the poor level of education for children and stressed the importance of expanded access and increased government resources for the social sectors.

47. In a positive step forward, the Humanitarian Coordination Group, co-chaired by the Minister of Social Affairs and Reintegration and the Humanitarian Coordinator a.i., met in Luanda in April to discuss the humanitarian situation in the country. On the basis of a new information-sharing format, jointly prepared at the field level by government representatives and OCHA, UTCAH presented an overview of the humanitarian situation in all 18 provinces focusing on critical needs and outlining a two-month work plan for each province. Priorities and work plans for the three national sub-groups on food security and agriculture, health and nutrition, and internally displaced persons and refugees were also presented.

48. In April, the second National Plan of Emergency Action was drafted under the leadership of UTCAH. The Plan, prepared by 11 ministries and departments, United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations, focused on government actions in seven sectors and established an overall framework for humanitarian interventions from May 2001 to May 2002. In August, more than 210 government delegates and United Nations field staff attended the second provincial planning workshop from all 18 provinces. During September, provincial emergency plans of action were drafted in each province under government leadership. The provincial plans identified humanitarian priorities for each province and outlined the concrete steps that partners would be taking during the coming year. To ensure complementarities between government and United Nations interventions, the provincial plans will form the basis of the 2002 Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal.

49. In mid-August, the Government announced the creation of the Intersectoral Commission on De-mining and Humanitarian Assistance (CNIDAH) under the Council of Ministers. The Commission will be responsible for coordinating de-mining activities as well as assistance to mine victims. Members include representatives of the Ministries of Social Affairs and Reinsertion, Health, Agriculture and Rural Development, Territorial Administration, External Relations, Defence and the Interior, and of FAA and six representatives from national and international non-governmental organizations.

V. Economic and social situation

50. During the period under review, there was some progress towards achieving greater macroeconomic stability, although many of the macroeconomic targets set in the Staff Monitored Programme (SMP) of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) were not met. For example, the annual rate of inflation fell to 173 per cent in June 2001, compared with more than 400 per cent a year earlier, but this was still above the June target of 150 per cent set in the SMP. The inflation rate fell to 131 per cent in August.

51. The reduction in inflation appears to have occurred despite a continuing large budget deficit, and was made possible only by central bank action to contain depreciation of the kwanza by selling foreign exchange on the local market. As a result, the Government was unable to meet the SMP target for international reserves and exceeded the SMP ceiling on external borrowing. In August, the Government contracted a new oil-guaranteed loan of US$ 600 million from a consortium of international banks, further adding to the stock of costly commercial loans to be repaid by future oil deliveries.

52. Oil exports (almost US$ 7 billion in 2000) are believed to have fallen slightly in 2001, owing to a relatively minor weakening of oil prices and a temporary pause in the long-term trend of rising oil production, which is currently about 740,000 barrels a day. However, the start-up of production of the major new Girassol Field at the end of this year will raise oil production to a projected 950,000 barrels a day in 2002. The large increase in oil exports should ease budgetary and balance-of-payments pressures significantly, assuming no large fall in world oil prices.

53. The SMP, which had begun in July 2000, ended in June 2001. The main objectives of the programme were to restore macroeconomic stability, improve transparency in public sector operations and begin implementation of a series of structural reforms. Following a monitoring mission by IMF in July, the Fund reported that there had been some progress in the implementation of the structural measures, including the start-up of a diagnostic study of the oil sector, but that many of the measures had not yet been completed. It also noted that urgent action was required to improve the production and publication of data on government revenues, expenditures and external debt transactions. Although the SMP has formally ended, at the Government's request, the deadline for implementation of the SMP measures has been extended to October 2001. IMF and the authorities agreed that discussions on a possible Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility could begin once the objectives of the SMP had been achieved.

54. One of the SMP measures has been the preparation of an Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (I-PRSP). Following the Government's completion of a first draft in February 2001, the United Nations system in Angola prepared a memorandum on the draft I-PRSP, based on comments and suggestions made by each of the United Nations agencies. This memorandum was submitted to the Minister of Planning by the Resident Coordinator a.i. on 2 May. The Government is continuing work on the I-PRSP and has requested technical assistance from the United

Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Bank for its completion. However, apart from a seminar on the social sectors and poverty reduction, hosted by the Ministry of Planning on 18 and 19 July, consultations with the civil society and the National Assembly on the poverty reduction strategy have not yet begun.

55. At the July seminar, the Government released preliminary data from the Household Expenditure and Income Survey, 2000/2001, conducted by the National Statistics Institute, which confirmed the seriousness of the poverty situation. The data, which are almost entirely for the urban areas and do not include some of the worst war-affected areas, showed that 63 per cent of households were living below the poverty line. Most disturbing of all, 25 per cent of households were below the extreme poverty line, equivalent to about 60 United States cents per adult per day (enough to meet only basic calorific food needs).

56. In a move that aroused considerable controversy, including protests from those directly affected, the provincial government of Luanda has begun the demolition of the homes of an estimated 50,000 residents in the slum district of Boavista, citing the risks of erosion in the area, and the relocation to a settlement about 40 kilometres outside the city, where they have been provided with tents. The demolition of homes and relocation of the residents began in July and are continuing in phases, despite protests from the Boavista residents committee and human rights lawyers assisting the residents, who complain that they were not consulted, are not receiving compensation for the loss of assets and have been removed by force to a site far from their sources of employment and incomes.

57. The campaign to eradicate polio has continued, with the third round of National Immunization Days (NID) held from 14 to 16 September, with support from the World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF and other international partners. Data from the Ministry of Health for the second round of NID, held from 11 to 13 August, indicate that almost 3.6 million children under age 5, out of a target population of 3.8 million, were vaccinated in 123 out of 164 local government areas (*municipios*). However, owing to increased difficulties in access, there was a slight reduction in geographical coverage compared with that of the first NID held from 6 to 8 July, when 139 *municipios* had been reached. Nonetheless, Angola appears to be well on the way to achieving polio eradication, if the campaign is sustained, if routine immunization services are strengthened and if this is supported by an effective epidemiological surveillance system. Since September 2000, no cases of wild polio virus have been confirmed.

VI. Observations

58. At the beginning of the year, there was a glimmer of hope that the conflict might be giving way to what appeared to be a dialogue that could lead the parties towards a peaceful settlement of their differences. Unfortunately, the intensification and the frequency of the guerrilla attacks by UNITA, particularly on innocent civilians, including women and children, plunged the country into another political and military stalemate.

59. However, there are encouraging signs towards the resolution of the conflict and civil society continues to spearhead the call for a political settlement. In fact, both the Government and UNITA have reaffirmed the validity of the Lusaka Protocol as a basis for peace in Angola, although they still hold different interpretations with respect to the ways and means by which the relevant provisions of the Protocol are to be implemented. The United Nations and the international community should continue to exert their influence and assist the parties in finding lasting peace within the framework of the Protocol.

60. The ongoing conflict continues to heavily affect the human rights situation in Angola, particularly in the provinces and areas affected by guerrilla warfare. In addition to ongoing institution- and capacity-building activities in Luanda, several initiatives have been taken to support activities in the provinces. The humanitarian situation also remains serious, particularly in inaccessible regions, where deterioration of conditions is suspected. While the humanitarian agencies continue their support activities in all regions, I call upon the Government and the international community to extend humanitarian assistance, in particular to the civilian populations in the inaccessible areas.

61. At the request of the Government of Angola, my Adviser for Special Assignments in Africa will be visiting Angola later in the year for consultation with the Government, political parties and civil society representatives on how best the United Nations could help in the search for a negotiated peace in the country.

He will also consult on the Government's request for the Organization's support and assistance with respect to the elections to take place in late 2002 or 2003, the pilot project and the Fund for Peace and National Reconciliation.

62. Through the efforts of UNOA and in particular of my Adviser for Special Assignments in Africa, as well as my Representative in Angola, broad contacts have been established with the Government, political parties, civil society, and the church which could provide a strong support base in the common search for a peaceful resolution of the conflict. UNOA continues to play an essential role in providing assistance to the Government and people of Angola in the area of human rights and capacity-building, as well as in the crucial area of humanitarian aid. In addition to monitoring the situation on the ground, UNOA portrays in significant ways the continuing commitment of the international community to the pressing cause of peace, harmony and prosperity in Angola. I therefore recommend that the Security Council extend the mandate of UNOA for a further six-month period, until 15 April 2002.